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PEND OREILLE WETLANDS WILDLIFE MITIGATION

Annual Report 2001



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**2001 Annual Report for the Pend Oreille Wetlands
Wildlife Mitigation Projects
Project No. 1991-060-00 Contract No. 00004008**

Submitted by:

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December 5, 2001

Introduction

This report is a summary of significant results and progress made in the management of the Pend Oreille Wetlands Wildlife Mitigation project (“Flying Goose Ranch” and “Dilling Addition”) with emphasis on the 2001 contract period. Since initial purchases in 1992 and 1997, the Pend Oreille Wetlands project has been managed by the Kalispel Tribe to benefit numerous wildlife species that include Bald Eagle, Black-capped Chickadee, Yellow Warbler, Canada Goose, Mallard, muskrat, white-tailed deer, and associated habitat.

The Tribal goal for Albeni Falls Dam wildlife mitigation remains:

“Protect and develop in-kind wildlife habitat to mitigate losses associated with the construction and operation of Albeni Falls Dam.”

To succeed at this goal, the Tribe is continuing to manage and enhance the “Flying Goose Ranch” and “Dilling Addition” as well as continue to explore opportunities for additional protection, mitigation, and enhancement measures. Other opportunities for habitat protection and enhancement are currently being supplied to the regional ranking and prioritization process through the Albeni Falls Interagency Workgroup.

Project Description

The Pend Oreille Wetlands project consists of two adjacent parcels totaling about 600 acres. The parcels make up the northern boundary of the Kalispel Indian Reservation, and is also adjacent to the Pend Oreille River about 25 miles north of Newport and Albeni Falls Dam (Figure 1). Located in the Selkirk Mountains in Pend Oreille County Washington, the project is situated on an active floodplain, increasing its effectiveness as mitigation for Albeni Falls Dam. The combination of the River, wetlands and the north-south alignment of the valley have resulted in an important migratory waterfowl flyway. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and Kalispel Natural Resource Department have designated both project sites as priority habitats. Seven habitat types exist on the project properties and include four wetland habitats (open water, emergent, and scrub-shrub and forested), riparian deciduous forest, upland mixed coniferous forest and floodplain meadow. Importance of the project to wildlife is further documented by the occurrence of an active Bald Eagle nest aerie.

Project Accomplishments/Activities concurrent with the Scope of Work

Objective 1: Management and oversight of the Pend Oreille Wetlands Wildlife Mitigation Project

Tasks 1.1 through 1.6 have been accomplished for the 2001 fiscal year.

Objective 2: Maintain existing physical improvements and control noxious weeds

Tasks 2.1 and 2.2 have been accomplished for the 2001 fiscal year.

Objective 3: As managers, secure the property and provide law enforcement

Tasks 3.1 and 3.2 have been accomplished for the 2001 fiscal year. There was an incident of poachers dumping a Bull Moose hide and entrails in the parking area of the north end of the Flying Goose Ranch. The incident was reported to tribal officers.

Objective 4: Report and investigate accidents, and provide liability insurance

Tasks 4.1 have been accomplished for the 2001 fiscal year. There were no accidents to report this year.

Objective 5: Maintain 1500 feet of riverbank previously stabilized using bio-engineering techniques

Task 5.1 has been accomplished for the 2001 fiscal year.

Objective 6: Increase deciduous tree density

Task 6.1 and task 6.2 has been accomplished for the 2001 fiscal year.



Figure 1. Deciduous tree density increases.

Objective 7: Manage the pasture to maximize benefits to target waterfowl

Tasks 7.1 and 7.2 have been accomplished for the 2001 fiscal year.

Objective 8: Increase and maintain forest health

Task 8.1 has been accomplished for the 2001 fiscal year.

Objective 9: Riparian forest and scrub-shrub wetland restoration

Task 9.1 will be accomplished next field season as native plant stocks become available. Task 9.2 has been partially accomplished. As of winter 2001, only the lower section is complete. The upper section will be completed as more native shrub plantings become available to transplant in the spring.



Figure 2. Shrub-scrub wetland restoration.

Objective 10: Wetland restoration and enhancement

Task 10.1 and 10.2 has been accomplished for the 2001 fiscal year.

Objective 11: Provide land records, and prepare and submit quarterly and annual progress reports

Tasks 11.1 through 11.4 have been accomplished for the 2001 fiscal year

Discussion of Events

Most of the objectives were either implemented or completed on the “Flying Goose Ranch” in the 1999 field season. Management and technical focus has shifted to the objectives for the “Dilling Addition”. These objectives are concurrent with the “Flying Goose Ranch” objectives.

Every year consists of re-planting areas that were not successful the year before. Additional bio-engineered techniques may be needed where newly exposed riverbank is found and where plantings will need extra security to successfully take root.

This year, all the boards on the water control structures were pulled to allow drainage of the project. This helps the area maintain its natural regime.

Future Recommendations/Planned Activities

Future budgeting and scopes of work will be submitted as one project including both properties.